

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 00163 181835Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NEA-10 DRC-01 /158 W

----- 016973

P 181759Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6196

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 163

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US, FR

SUBJECT: PARIS PRESS COMMENT ON MASMOUDI OUSTER

REF: TUNIS 0306

1. CLEAREST REACTION CAME FROM PHIIPE BERNERT IN AURORE JANUARY 15: "AT DJEBA, JOBERT'S MUSKETEERS ARE PLAYING A MAJOR GAME---THE FUSION NOT ONLY OF TUNISIA AND LIBYA, BUT OF THE ENRIRE MAGHREB, WITH EXTENSIONS INTO BLACK AFRICA. IT'S POMPIDOU'S BIG EURO-AFRICAN SCHEE". THREE MUSKETEERS IN QUESTION ARE FRENCH AMBASSADORS TO TUNIS (GAUCHER), ALGIERS (SOUTOU) AND RABAT (RAIMOND). BERNERT PORTRAYED MASMOUDI AS A VITAL LINK IN THIS PAN, AND WONDERED WHETHER HIS REMOVAL HASN'T EFFECTIVELY RUINED IT.

2. FIGARO SAME DAY PRINTED FIRST-PAGE ARTICLE BY SERGE BROMBERGER REPORTING THAT "BOMB" OF MASMOUDI'S OUSTER EXPLODED AFTER BOURGUIBA HAD RECEIVD US AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS. IN SAME ISSUE APPEARED MASMOUDI STATEMENT TO FIGARO THAT "I HOPE FOR THE SAKE OF HIS PRESTIGE THAT BOURGUIBA KEEPS HIS AGREEMENTS".

3. IN LE MONDE JANUARY Q6, PHILIPPE HERREMAN WROTE IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 00163 181835Z

LONG ARTICLE THAT "MASMOUDI FEELS HIMSELF VICTIM OF

MANEUVERING. CERTAIN ASPECTS OF HIS POLICIES WERE HARDLY APPROVED BY THOSE WHO, LIKE BOURGUIBA, JR., PREFERRED A CLEARER ORIENTATION TOWARDS THE WEST, PARTICULARLY TOWARD THE US."

4. JANUARY 19 EDITION OF LE MONDE CARRIES LONG RESUME FROM TUNIS BY PAUL BALTA OF EVENTS SINCE JANUARY 8, IN WHICH HE SAYS MASMOUDI HAS BEEN TELLING ALL COMERS THAT HE LOST HIS JOB "FOR REASONS OTHER THAN THE ROLE HE WAS ABLE TO PLAY IN 'BRINGING LIBYA INTO THE MAGREBIAN CIRCLE'." BALTA QUOTES HM AS FOLLOWS: "I'VE BEEN REPROACHED FOR AN ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDE A YEAR AGO WHEN I FAVORED VOTING FOR CHINA'S ENTRY INTO THE UN, AND FOR HAVING SHOWN SYMPATHY FOR THE BOMBED PEOPLE OF NORTH VIET NAM WHEN I VISITED HANOI. THE FACT IS THAT THE THEN-SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. ROGERS, WAS NOT HAPPY. BUT MR. KISSINGER...HAS SINCE REPLACED MR. ROGERS. THEY HAVE CONCOCTED STORIES THAT MR. NIXON HAS SAID THAT 'MR. MASMOUDI WILL NEVER SET FOOT IN THE WHITE HOUSE.' THEY SAID MR. KISSINGER DID NOT WANT TO SEE ME WHEN HE RECENTLY VISITED TUNIS. AT THAT TIME, SOME PEOPLE EVEN SUGESTED THAT IT TAKE A REST. I REPLIED THAT I WAS WELL AND IN EXCELLENT HEALTH. AND I WENT TO GREET MR. KISSINGER. I TOLD HIM: 'IF YOU DON'T WANT ME PRESENT AT YOUR TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT I'M READY TO STAY AWAY.' HE REPLIED: 'ABSOLUTELY NOT. NOT ONLY IS THERE NO REASON, BUT YOU ARE THE FIRST TO TALK TO ME ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS IN TERMS THAT I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, AND I HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF REGARD FOR YOU'." BALTA ADDS THAT, "IN THE ESSENTIALS, THE TONE OF THIS CONVERSATION" (HE PRESUMABLY MEANS BETWEEN SECRETARY AND MASMOUDI) "HAS BEEN CONFIRMED ON THE AMERICAN SIDE." DECON 12/31/75. STONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS00163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740132/aaaabdqk.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TUNIS 0306
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARIS PRESS COMMENT ON MASMOUDI OUSTER
TAGS: PFOR, TS, US, FR, (MASMOUDI)
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005